

REPORT

Of the Committee of Claims in the case of Nathaniel Childers.

JANUARY 16, 1824.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

JANUARY 29, 1824.

Committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of
Nathaniel Childers, of Virginia,

REPORT:

The committee made a detailed report in this case on the 1st of February, 1822, recommending the rejection of this claim. They now beg leave to refer to, and adopt, that report, and submit to the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

To the Honorable the Congress of the United States of America:

The petition of Nathaniel Childers, a citizen of the state of Virginia, RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That, on or about the first June last, he was appointed, by General John Pegram, Marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia, to take the census of Norfolk County, in the aforesaid state, and, as no citizen (as required by law) of said county could be induced to take the burthen upon himself to perform such duty, owing to the dispersed situation of the inhabitants, which is created by the numerous inlets, bays, &c. making in almost every direction, from the sea, and the different rivers passing through said county, discharging themselves therein, and particularly the Dismal Swamp, which presents a tract

of country probably unparalleled in the United States, if not in the known world; and twelve months having nearly elapsed, from the passage of a law by Congress to extend the time to the first day of September last, solely passed (your petitioner believes) on account of the said county of Norfolk and Elizabeth City county, in the aforesaid state of Virginia, to complete and fully effect the Census of the Eastern District of Virginia, and the object of the law likely again to be defeated: your petitioner, then a citizen of the city of Richmond, in Virginia, was induced to leave his home and family, and to take residence in the aforesaid county of Norfolk, for the sole purpose of taking the said Census, under the *express understanding* and *special condition*, with the said Marshal, that your petitioner was to have all the opportunity provided by law, to extend to him the compensation the law contemplated for those who encountered difficult sections of country, in taking the 4th Census. That the aforesaid Marshal instructed your petitioner to take certificates to shew the difficulties he had to encounter, and even named some persons himself, whose certificates he thought would be important to take, to prove the difficulties existing in said county—all which your petitioner has done. Thus, your petitioner was amused with such promises, without the smallest deviation, till the service was nearly completed, when the said Marshal informed your petitioner that he had prevailed upon the District Judge to allow twenty-five per cent. upon the one dollar per hundred allowed by law for that purpose; but that *allowance was to apply generally*—which placed those who had few or no difficulties to encounter, on the same footing with your petitioner, who risked his life and health in that sickly section of country, and at the sickly season—where so many has since died with a prevailing epidemic—in the discharge of a duty which no other person could be prevailed on to perform, without a prospect of a better compensation than the face of the law promised. Your petitioner considers himself oppressed and unjustly dealt with by this provision. The said Marshal forwarded your petitioner's accounts to the Secretary of State, and settled the same at the allowance above recited, without the knowledge or consent of your petitioner, who never would have consented to such settlement had he been consulted upon the subject; and now your petitioner is answered by the Marshal, that, having settled his accounts with the Secretary of State at that ratio, and made up and completed his books upon that subject, he would act indecorous to meddle further with the business, although he admits the injustice and inadequacy of the compensation, and refers your petitioner to your honorable body for redress, without the aid of such certificate as the law requires he should direct to the judge of the district; saying that his correspondence with the honorable Secretary of State, setting forth the difficulty in procuring an assistant to take the aforesaid Census, would furnish your petitioner with ample and sufficient evidence to get his petition fairly before Congress. Your petitioner, therefore, has informed said Marshal, that he should present this petition to Congress, and that he would pray them; if neces-

sary, to cause him, the said Marshal, to be furnished with a copy of this petition and answer, and say if the facts set forth are not strictly true, to which he assented that he would answer. Your petitioner humbly prays that your honorable body will inquire into the nature of the correspondence with the honorable Secretary of State, and if that should not prove sufficient evidence of the justice of his claim, and the aid of proof by affidavits be necessary, your petitioner is amply able to produce abundant proof, of that description, should he be informed of the necessity of such. Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays, that your honorable body will consider his complaint, and, if thought just, to allow him what he contemplated he should get when he undertook to perform the duty aforesaid; that is, \$2 50 per hundred for taking said Census, deducting therefrom the sum he has already received, as settled by the Marshal, as aforesaid. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

NATHANIEL CHILDERS.

Richmond, Va. Dec. 25, 1821.

Richmond Va. December 25th, 1821.

SIR: I have enclosed a petition, which I respectfully solicit you will present, at any rate, if you please; and I pray of you to assist in making the inquiries the face of the petition will shew to you.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant.

P. S. I have addressed a letter to Mr. Newton and Mr. Pleasants, soliciting their attention to the petition. Mr. Newton is well acquainted with all the difficulties prevailing in Norfolk county.

Respectfully,

N. CHILDERS.

The Hon. A. STEVENSON,

Member of Congress, Washington.

Richmond, December 4th, 1822.

SIR: I enclose you a letter from General John Pegram, Marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia, detailing our contract for taking the census of Norfolk county in Virginia. I have also enclosed to you a number of other documents, supporting my pretensions set forth in my petition. General Pegram's letter being formed according to your own dictation, or, in other words, what you thought would be satisfactory evidence to the Committee of Claims, (being founded on facts,

I hope I shall meet the promised payment; the foundation of my contract and the just dues of my expectations. All of which, with cheerfulness, I submit to your assistance, and having, on the last session, such evidence of your attention, I pray the continuance of your aid. Fearful of the tax of postage, I have sent some documents in a blank envelope.

Respectfully,

NATH. CHILDERS.

The Hon. A. STEVENSON.

Richmond, November 25th, 1822.

DEAR SIR: I understand that the petition of Mr. Nathaniel Childers to Congress, for an increase of pay for taking the late census in the county of Norfolk, was rejected on the grounds of my not making an application to the District Judge for an increase of pay in his case. I will therefore give a plain detail of facts, as relates to Mr. Childers. On my qualification as marshal, I received a letter from the Secretary of State, requiring my immediate attention to the census; and on inquiry I found that my predecessor had not succeeded in making his appointments for the counties of Norfolk and Elizabeth City, as no person could be prevailed on to accept the office for the compensation allowed by law; of this fact I informed the Secretary of State, and also applied to the District Judge to know if he would consent to additional pay, which he refused to allow. I then went to Norfolk, and used my efforts to induce some person to accept the appointment, but did not succeed for Norfolk county. On my return to Richmond, Mr. Childers agreed to take residence in Norfolk county, and to take the census of the same, on my assurance that I would endeavor to procure him additional pay. He discharged the duty with despatch that entitled him to my thanks, as the time was short; and I believe made a faithful and correct return. After the census in my district was made, I applied to the District Judge, and after considerable difficulty, the allowance of \$1 25 cents per hundred persons was made to all assistants in my District, which was a fair and equitable allowance in some cases; but inadequate compensation, as relates to Mr. Childers, and several other assistants. But I determined to make no further application to the Judge. The Commissioners of Revenue in Virginia are much better paid by the State, than the assistants who took the late Census. I am perfectly satisfied that if Mr. Childers had not consented to take the Census in Norfolk county, that I should not have succeeded in taking the Census in that county.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM,

Marshal of the E. D. of Virginia.

ANDREW STEVENSON Esq.

Member of Congress, Washington City.

CITY OF RICHMOND, }
State of Virginia, } ss.

I, John C. Webb, now a member of the Legislature of the state of Virginia, from the county of Norfolk, do hereby state, upon oath, that, being born and raised in the said county of Norfolk, possess a full knowledge of the many difficulties that a man should have to encounter in taking the census of said county; and, being called upon by Mr. Nathaniel Childers, to say to Congress the many difficulties that do exist, do not hesitate to say, that the many creeks, bays, and difficult parts of the Dismal Swamp, and the many creeks and outlets from the bay, Eastern and Western Branch of Elizabeth river, render the taking of the census of said county a most difficult job; such an one that no citizen of the county would undertake, without a better compensation than then allowed by law; and that, if he does not receive at least the two dollars and fifty cents which the law allows for those difficulties that might exist, he cannot be even reasonably paid. Believing that no man within the county would have undertaken the task without a full assurance of that amount, if they would even for that amount, he thinks Mr. Childers would then be but badly paid.

JNO. C. WEBB, *M. D.*

CITY OF RICHMOND, ss.

This day came before me, an alderman of the city aforesaid, John C. Webb, who made oath that the foregoing affidavit contains the truth, to the best of his knowledge and belief. Given under my hand, this 4th day of December, 1822.

NATHANIEL CHARTER.

I certify that the county of Norfolk, from its situation on the seaboard, and embracing a considerable part of the Dismal Swamp, is very troublesome, and difficult to travel over, as creeks, coves, and marshes, a great many of which make from the Dismal Swamp, and other places, which are impassable, compels a person to ride many miles to effect a journey of one or two.

ISRAEL FOREMAN,
Bear Quarter.

June 22, 1821.

I do hereby certify it to be as great difficulty to take the census in Norfolk county as any county whatever, that I am acquainted with, owing to the travelling through woods, bogs, over ditches, fences, swamps, cuftee ridges, reed swamps, by roads, and round swamps, fences, &c. say two thirds of the completion.

MILES BUTT,
North West River Bridge.

June 22, 1821.

CITY OF RICHMOND, to wit:

This day personally appeared before me, William Tazewell, an alderman for the city of Richmond, aforesaid, Nathaniel Childers, a citizen of said city, who made oath, on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that, about the first of June last, he was appointed, by Gen. John Pegram, marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia, to take the census of Norfolk county, in the said state: that this bargain was entered into at the Eagle Hotel, in said city; and that, then and there, the said Pegram informed this affiant that he had spent \$30 or more in travelling to Norfolk to procure an assistant, which he could not effect without responding from his own private pocket a further compensation than the law authorized him to pay, should the application to the judge fail; which he said he would not do: all that he would do would refer them, by his certificate, to the judge: That this affiant undertook the task upon a full understanding that he was to be recommended by the said marshal to the judge for the additional compensation that the law provided where difficulty prevailed: That this affiant proceeded to Norfolk, where he found, in the hands of Richard Baugh, a former sheriff of said county, a full suit of papers, with instructions, if possible, to procure some one to take the census, which he could not effect, although the express promise was to be extended to the person, as was made to this affiant in Richmond: that every person in the county of Norfolk, whom this affiant consulted upon the subject, was of opinion that the person who took the census would be badly paid if he was to receive \$2 50 per hundred: that this affiant, about the 3d of July, visited his family at Richmond, having not taken more than half the census: that, on the morning of the 4th of July, he paid a visit to the marshal, at the Eagle Hotel, aforesaid, when he, the said marshal, informed this affiant that he had had an interview with the judge, who had agreed to make a general additional compensation of twenty-five per cent. on the dollar allowed by law per 100; but, at the same time, reiterated his promises to me, with great warmth, that he would lend me all his aid to further my compensation, and recommended me to endeavor to obtain the certificates of Gen. R. B. Taylor, Littleton Waller Tazewell, and "Old Doct. Barraud," whose influence with the judge he supposed would be considerable: that the time remaining to the 1st September, when the law expired, was so short, that this affiant had to use all his exertions to complete his return in time, and had not a day to spare: that, when he had completed his return, and before it was completed, he asked the marshal for the promised certificate, and found him wavering; and, as the judge was in town, said he would see us together, which never could be effected: that this affiant then visited the judge himself, who said he could not act on any thing without the certificate of the marshal. He then urged him to grant one, according to his *frequent and most solemn contract and promises*, when he finally replied that he would not; that it would be indecorous to be again giving trouble to the Secretary of State on the subject; and that, having made up his books, he could not think of having others to make over again, (or

some such words:) that this affiant then told him (Pegram) that he would make the books himself, without fee or reward, rather than lose his compensation, promised by him through the judge; to which he would not consent, but said Congress must be resorted to for redress by me; and added, that his correspondence with the Secretary of State furnished sufficient grounds for my petition; flying fully in the face of his solemn promises made to me, to aid me, before the judge.

This affiant humbly submits his case to your Honorable Body, from whom he humbly implores that justice which was promised him, and withheld by the marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia; and further saith not.

Given under my hand, this 15th day of March, 1822.

WILLIAM TAZEWELL.

The United States to Nathaniel Childers, Dr.

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| 1821. To taking the census of Norfolk county, number | | | |
| of persons 15,479, at \$2 50 per 100 | - | - | \$ 386 97½ |
| CR. | | | |
| By cash received of the marshal | - | - | 232 18½ |
| | | | <hr/> |
| This sum asked for by me, | - | - | \$ 154 79 |
| | | | N. CHILDERS. |

Richmond City, ss.

Personally appeared before me, one of the aldermen of the city aforesaid, Arthur Lee, of Norfolk county, of lawful age, who, being first duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, depose and saith, that he is well acquainted with the local situation of the county of Norfolk, having resided in it from his infancy, and that he is of opinion, that the compensation allowed by law to the assistants for taking the census, under the authority of Congress, is totally inadequate to the labor, trouble, and expense, necessarily incurred in the discharge of that duty. That the county is extensive, and intersected by numerous and extensive swamps, morasses, and water courses—on this subject he speaks with confidence, having, on a former occasion, viz: in the year 1810, consented, at the request of the Marshal, to take the said census; that the compensation he received, on that occasion, did not reimburse the necessary expenses incurred in discharging the duty. He further states, that he has no doubt, from his own observation, and the information of others, that the duty has been accurately and faithfully performed by Mr. Childers.

Given under my hand, this 21st day of January, 1822.

J. H. EUSTACE.

Mr. Lee is now a member of the Virginia Legislature.

AND. STEVENSON.

RICHMOND, *January 22, 1822.*

We, the subscribers, residents of the county of Norfolk, and Princess Anne, being called upon by Nathaniel Childers (who lately took the 4th census of Norfolk county, in the state of Virginia,) to certify what is our opinion, respecting the difficulties a person would encounter in performing such duty, do say: That we think few counties in this state present as many difficulties; owing, in a particular manner, to the many rivers, creeks, and swamps, which run through the county, in almost every direction; that the Dismal Swamp, which forms a portion of the county, is a tract of country, the margin of which is sparsely inhabited, and difficult of access. Indeed we, who live in and near the county, are at a loss to enumerate the many disadvantages which would attend the taking of the census of the said county. We further add, and verily believe, that the difficulties were such as to deter any inhabitant of the said county from undertaking to perform this duty, without a better prospect of payment than the law promised. And we are of opinion, from the number of inhabitants returned by said Childers, that the census was faithfully taken, and that the compensation which is allowed by law, and paid to the takers of the fourth census, *generally*, in this state, are an inadequate compensation to a person taking the census of Norfolk county, when he faithfully performs his duty.

WM. C. HOLT,
THOMAS R. SWIFT,
CALEB WARD.

Mr. Holt is Speaker of the Senate of Virginia, and the other two, I believe, members of the House of Delegates. A. S.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, *Jan. 21, 1822.*

SIR: Yours, of the 16th current, came duly to hand, and I beg you to accept my most respectful thanks for your kind and prompt attention to my petition. I have this morning obtained the certificate of William C. Holt, who is now Speaker of the Senate of the Legislature of this state, and Captain Swift, member of the lower House, from the county of Norfolk, and Caleb Ward, member from the county of Princess Ann, which I enclose to you. In requesting them to be sworn, Mr. Holt for himself, and in behalf of the rest, said it would be questioning their veracity, as they were not only residents of the county, and its vicinity, but held responsible stations in the legislature of the country; and appealed to yourself and Mr. Thomas Newton, who well knew them, to make such statements to the committee, but not to let the petition be lost for want of their oaths: for, if indispensably necessary, return the paper, and they

would immediately subscribe their oaths to it. I pray of you to confer with Mr. Newton upon the subject. I have also written to him, praying his patronage, as it may deserve, in his opinion. Mr. Holt says, he knows Mr. Newton to be well acquainted with the difficulties set forth by him and others. And if you will speak to him, he has no doubt but he will support my petition. Do not consider that I am dictating to you, for, with cheerfulness and good faith, I submit my case to you. Be pleased not to let it be acted on for the want of testimony, for, if necessary, I will go to Norfolk, and obtain many affidavits, but I hope those few, that can be obtained here, if I can obtain Mr. Newton's support, will prove sufficient.

I am, most respectfully,

Your obedient,

NATHL. CHILDERS.

P. S. In my letter to Mr. Newton, I have enclosed some documents, for fear the weight all in yours might be taxable, to which I most respectfully refer you.

N. C.

P. S. Since I have wrote to you the foregoing letter, I have obtained from Col. Arthur Lee an affidavit, now enclosed to you, to support my pretensions, to which I most respectfully call your attention. Col. L. is now a member of the legislature, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Edward Wilson, returned from that county. Should you stand in need of information upon that subject, I pray of you to apply to Mr. Thomas Newton.

Very respectfully,

N. CHILDERS.

Hon. A. STEVENSON.

June 9, 1821.

By the request of Mr. Nathaniel Childers, now engaged in taking the census of Norfolk county, I feel no hesitancy in saying, that I believe it to be the worst county in the state to travel, on account of the rivers and creeks, which run through it in almost every direction.

THOS. BLUNT.

June 9, 1821.

I entirely accord with Mr. Blunt, and have no doubt but it is the most difficult county to travel over, in the state of Virginia.

DAVID JAMES.

I believe that much difficulty prevails in the county.

R. WOODWARD.

I give this as my opinion, that the upper part of Norfolk county is attended with considerable difficulty to travel.

THOS. K. ORTON.

West Branch, Norfolk County.

I feel a confidence in saying, that the county of Norfolk must be one of the most difficult to obtain the census of.

RICHD. CARNEY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, April 24, 1821.

SIR: I had the pleasure of writing to you yesterday, to inform you that I had transmitted to Judge Tucker a commission for you from the President, for the office of Marshal of the United States in and for the Eastern District of Virginia.

One of the objects that will most immediately require your attention, in discharging the duties of the marshal's office, is the Fourth Census; the returns of which, from the assistants, according to recent communications to this Department, had not been all made to Mr. Moore, previously to his resignation.

To give you, in the most prompt and convenient manner, a full view of the course of proceeding, and of the nature of the duties incident to this branch of the public service, I enclose to you, herewith, a set of the instructions and forms, which have been issued to the several marshals in relation to it; and, in order that you may complete the census, and the account of manufactures, with the requisite legal solemnity, you will, yourself, take the oath No. 2. and, after it has been properly certified, send it to this Department, with the other papers connected with the subject. These papers, as far as they have been collected, you will probably find, either in the hands of Mr. Samuel W. D. Moore, a son of the late marshal, who has written to me from Lexington, Virginia, or in the possession of Mr. Joseph Allen, the official agent of Mr. Andrew Moore, at Richmond. I will thank you to lose no time in examining them, and in informing me of the precise situation in which the business is placed. No doubt, Mr. Samuel W. D. Moore and Mr. Allen will both readily afford you all the information they respectively can, in regard to it. Be pleased to acknowledge the receipt of this letter.

I am, with much respect, sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq.

Dinwiddie Court House, Virginia.

DINWIDDIE, May 9, 1821.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, announcing, to my great surprise, my appointment as Marshal of the United States for the Eastern District of

Virginia. The manner in which this appointment has been made adds to my obligations; and, in accepting it, I feel the high responsibility of the office: but, if strict attention, and the faithful discharge of the duties of the office, will be a return for the confidence reposed in me, I flatter myself that the President will have no cause to regret the appointment. On the receipt of your letter, I immediately repaired to Norfolk, prepared to qualify to my commission, if Judge Tucker required it; but desirous to defer it for a few days, in order to make the necessary inquiries, and arrangement of deputies, previous to qualification. The Judge gave his cordial assent to my wishes, and I immediately went to the city of Richmond, in order to ascertain in what situation the late marshal's business stood in relation to the fourth census. To my very great surprise, I found no assistants had been appointed in the counties of Elizabeth City and Norfolk. Thus, you will at once perceive the difficulty in which I shall be placed on entering on the duties of my office. I was informed by Mr. Allen, the clerk of the late marshal, that no persons, residents of those two counties, could be prevailed on to accept the office for the compensation allowed by law; those two counties, being very much intersected by inlets, and other waters, which would require so much additional labor and expense, as to deter them from the acceptance of the office. Upon this statement I forbear to comment, and leave the matter to your better judgment. I determined, on the receipt of this information, to address a letter to you on the subject; but, on reflection, thought it would be premature to occupy your time previous to my qualification, returned home, where I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 24th of April, directing my attention to the subject of the fourth census. I beg leave to inquire, whether it is your wish that an aggregate of the returns now received should be forwarded to your Department, and a supplemental aggregate of the remainder hereafter? or, that I shall delay making any return until the census is completed? I fear the returns on the subject of manufactures will be very unsatisfactory, and my duties very arduous, on account of the want of system in the returns, and the different construction which has been given to the law, and your instructions under that law. Those assistants who have made their returns are very clamorous for their compensation. Early in the ensuing week I shall wait on Judge Tucker, and take the oath of office, and forward to you my official letter; from whence I shall go to Norfolk and Hampton, where, by my personal attention, I hope to induce persons of respectability to accept the appointments of assistants, in those counties where no appointments have been made. I request an answer to this letter as early as convenient, and that it may be directed to Norfolk, if forwarded early in the ensuing week.

With sentiments of very great respect,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Secretary of State, Washington City.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 12, 1821.

SIR: I received your letter of the 9th instant to-day. It has given me much concern, to find that the late marshal of your district was so unsuccessful in his efforts to procure assistants in taking the fourth census, in the counties of Elizabeth City and Norfolk. Measures were adopted here, to facilitate his object in this respect; and, in particular, Thomas Newton, Esq. the Representative from the Norfolk district, was applied to, during the late session of Congress, on the subject. I had, indeed, at one time, entertained a hope, founded on letters received from the late marshal himself, early in the present year, that he would have eventually succeeded in his endeavors. It was chiefly upon his disappointments, and to prevent an entire failure of his returns, that the time for making them was enlarged, by act of Congress, of the 3d of March, 1821, to the first day of September next. I am anxious that you should press the business to a close, with as much expedition as may be consistent with accuracy of enumeration. In the mean time, you may send on the aggregate amount of such returns as have been made by the assistants, and transmit the remainder in a supplementary aggregate statement. Upon the receipt of the first, and under the particular circumstances of the case, the amount due to those assistants who have performed the duty required will be paid to you.

I am, with much respect, sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq.

Marshal of the U. S. in and for the East. Dist. of Virginia, Norfolk.

Norfolk, May 17, 1821.

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 12th instant, and have the pleasure to inform you, that, with some difficulty, I have obtained an assistant for taking the fourth census in the county of Elizabeth City; but, with every personal effort, have failed in the county of Norfolk, persons qualified refusing to accept the appointment on account of the compensation. I have had a conversation with Judge Tucker, on the subject of tendering the additional pay allowed by law, but he appears decidedly opposed to making that allowance. Thus I am placed in a truly disagreeable situation, the other duties of my office requiring all my attention, and no assistant can be procured for Norfolk county. If I am authorized by you to extend the compensation to two dollars for each hundred persons in that county, I think no further difficulty will exist. It is with great regret I again trouble you on this subject; but, a desire to discharge every duty

confided to me with fidelity. I hope, will be my apology. I hope to receive an answer in the city of Richmond.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Secretary of State, Washington City.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 23, 1821.

SIR: Your letter of the 17th instant, from Norfolk, was received at this Department yesterday. It is not without regret, and, considering that it is a part of Virginia long inhabited, not without some degree of surprise, I learn that your personal exertions to procure an assistant in taking the fourth census, for the county of Norfolk, have been unavailing; and it would be extremely gratifying to me, if I could feel myself justified in authorizing you to offer, to a suitable person in that division of your district, the increased pecuniary inducement which you mention as likely to be effectual.

The fourth section of the act of the 14th of March, 1820, provides, that, "where, from the dispersed situation of the inhabitants, in some divisions, one dollar will be insufficient for one hundred persons, the marshals, with the approbation of the judges of their respective districts or territories, may make such further allowance to the assistants in such divisions as shall be deemed an adequate compensation." The question of "further allowance," therefore, is, in every instance, as regards the census, *entirely between the marshal and the judge*, who, it is presumable, may sanction the additional compensation as well before as after the enumeration has been completed. You inform me that you have had a conversation with Judge Tucker on the subject, but that he appears "decidedly opposed" to the increased allowance. There is, of course, no relief to be afforded in the case, since the judge, to whom, by law, the matter is referred, has refused his approbation. Had the Secretary of State even the power, his interference would be a point of much delicacy after so conclusive a negative by a person so well qualified to form a correct opinion as Judge Tucker, from his knowledge of local circumstances, necessarily must be.

I am, with much respect, sir,
Your obedient and very humble servant,
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, ESQ.
Marshal of the U. S. in and for the East. Dist. of Virginia, Richmond.

RICHMOND, *June 11th, 1821.*

SIR: In obedience to your instructions, I now transmit to you, the aggregate amount of persons within my district, so far as returns have been made to me or to my predecessor, and also the returns that have been received of the manufacturing establishments within the district, together with an abstract of the same. I likewise forward, according to your instructions to the former marshal, my own oath as well as that of my predecessor, and also the oaths of the assistants, taken before commencing, and after completing, their duties, excepting the counties of Charles City, Fauquier, York, Bath, and Augusta. For the three former, the first, and for Bath, the last oath is wanting; Augusta having the oath written upon the return, in a way so as to prevent its being detached. I have not had an opportunity to inquire of the assistants why these oaths were not forwarded, but am inclined to think they may have been, and miscarried, the custom being to send the first oaths by mail, with their acceptances. An instance of this occurred in Fauquier, the assistant for which has endeavored to remedy the loss of the first, by taking another oath, which you will find with the others. The duties in these counties, however, have been performed; and I have no doubt they were done under the sanction of an oath, and as faithfully as in any of the rest. It will be seen there is an oath in each case, from which it may be fairly inferred that the other was also taken, and lost, probably without any fault of the assistant. A single remark is all I deem it necessary to make concerning the census. You will see, upon inspecting the aggregate, that the number of white males between sixteen and eighteen years, in Prince William County, are not given, the return omitting that description of persons. Many other returns bear the marks of being made by persons very deficient in capacity; yet I cannot question their accuracy, and have no doubt the appointments were the very best which the compensation enabled the marshal to make.

Concerning the manufactures, numerous difficulties and much diversity of opinion seem to have arisen among the assistants; insomuch, that no two of them scarcely appear to have had the same understanding of the subject, or to have acted upon the same principles: in consequence of which, and of the great uncertainty of the information they have rendered, and the form in which it is given, I very much fear the object of Congress, in relation to this subject, as regards this district, will be almost entirely frustrated. When you shall have seen and examined the returns, I flatter myself that you will think with me, that no apology is necessary for the imperfection of the abstract. Had the returns been made according to the form you prescribed, I could have compiled from them a full and complete abstract, with much less labor than it cost to make the one I have. However imperfect, therefore, it may be found, you will readily see, upon inspecting the returns, that it is utterly impracticable, and would be a useless waste of time and labor, to attempt even to extract any thing

from them of the least utility. Many of them I have noticed in no other way than by stating, in the abstract, that they are the labors of mechanics and handicraftsmen; as well from a doubt of the propriety of returning such establishments at all, as because, in a majority of cases, I knew the assistants had omitted to do it, and therefore but a partial view, at best, could be presented of establishments of that kind.

The abstract of compensation to the marshal and his assistants is also forwarded, upon which you will find an order of the judge allowing an increase of 25 per cent. in the compensation; which is a much smaller increase than I should have proposed, in many instances at least, had there been any hopes of getting the judge's approbation, who was not, and could not be made, so sensible of the vast extent of the duties and labor the assistants had to encounter.

I most earnestly desire that you will forward the money as soon as possible, that I may be relieved from the importunities of those who are to receive it; many of whom are extremely clamorous for their pay, and probably want it.

My address for an answer to this will be Dinwiddie Court House.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM, *Marshal.*

Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

Secretary of State.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 27, 1821.

SIR: Your letter of the 11th ultimo, with the return of the fourth census, the abstract of manufactures, and the other documents connected with them, have been duly received at this Department. Your account of compensation for this service has been examined and adjusted, and is approved in the following manner:

Compensation for the 4th census, or enumeration of the inhabitants of the Eastern District of Virginia, (with the exception of the counties of Gloucester, Henrico, and Norfolk) including the allowance to the marshal, - - - - -

\$ 11,940 81

Twenty per cent. upon 7,462 dollars 91 cents, that being the amount of compensation for taking the census in those divisions of the district from which there have been any returns of manufactures, -

1,492 58

\$ 13,433 39

That is to say, thirteen thousand four hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-nine cents; for which sum you may immediately draw upon Fontaine Maury, Esq. the agent for disbursing the funds of the Department of State; who will either remit the amount to you, or pay it upon your draft here.

It will be gratifying to learn, between this and the first day of September next, that you have been successful in any further effort which you may have made, to procure assistants for taking the census in the three counties from which there have been no returns.

I am, with much respect, sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq. *Marshal of the
United States, in and for the Eastern District of
Virginia, Dinwiddie Court House.*

Dinwiddie, August, 4th, 1821.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ult., authorizing me to draw on Mr. Maury for the sum of thirteen thousand four hundred and thirty-three dollars thirty-nine cents, it being the compensation allowed for taking the fourth Census in the eastern district of Virginia, with the exception of three counties, to wit: Gloucester, Henrico, and Norfolk. There is one other county from which no returns have been received, to wit: Elizabeth City. In the two last named counties, the assistants have been appointed since I came into office, and are busily engaged in the discharge of their duties. From them I fully calculate on receiving the returns in time. The two other assistants were appointed by my predecessor; and have been, by him and me, required to make the returns. I have, since General Moore's death and my appointment, received assurances that the returns would be made. So soon as they are received they will be immediately forwarded to you. I must request of you to direct to be forwarded to me the names of those assistants to whom additional compensation is allowed for returns of manufactures. Some of the returns were so imperfect, that I was at a loss how to act, but directed Mr. Allen, (who had been engaged by the former marshal, to make out the aggregates,) to retain for my use a list of those assistants who had made returns of manufactures. Mr. Allen has gone to the Western Country, and, to my great surprise, has neglected to make out that list for me. It is with very great regret I make this request of you, and hope it will be excused, under the circumstances in which I am placed.

I am, sir, with the highest respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

Secretary of State, Washington City.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 9th August, 1821.

SIR: Annexed, you have the names of the assistants to whom additional allowance has been made for taking an account of manufactures in your district, with the exception of the assistant for the county of King George, whose return has not been received at this Department, owing, as I presume, to the circumstance of its having been attached to the book of the Census, according to the memorandum you have made in your abstract. He is, however, included among those to whom the 20 per cent. is allowed.

In consequence of your representation of the inadequacy of the compensation for the enumeration of persons, I admitted the claim to the 20 per cent. in every case where there had been any return whatever of manufactures. It will be for you to apportion the sum equitably among your assistants.

The counties of Gloucester, Henrico, and Norfolk, are inserted in blank in your return of the Census; but the county of Elizabeth City is omitted altogether, which is the reason that the latter was overlooked in the exception expressed in the statement of your account when I notified you, on the 27th ult., to draw upon Mr. Maury for payment.

I am, with much respect, sir,

Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq.

*Marshal of the United States in and for the Eastern
District of Virginia, Dinwiddie Court House.*

Names referred to in the above letter.

1. R. W. Wood, Albemarle,
2. Thomas Mayso, Bath.
3. John S. Porterfield, Berkeley.
4. James L. Turner, Botetourt.
5. John Crenshaw, Bedford, Southern Division.
6. Ishmael Harwel, Brunswick.
7. Wm. Chick, Buckingham.
8. Edmd. Pendleton, Jr. . . . Caroline.
9. Richd. Cunningham, Cumberland.
10. E. Gresham, Chesterfield.
11. William Chambers, Dinwiddie.
12. John Micon, Essex.
13. G. Minifer, Franklin.
14. Saml. Ferguson, Fluvanna.
15. James Vance, Frederick

16. James Barkeley, Fairfax.
17. A. Grigsley, Fauquier.
18. P. Guenant, Goochland.
19. Ro. N. White, Hampshire.
20. Jos. Alexander, Henry.
21. B. Green, Halifax.
22. Joseph B. Whitehead, Isle of Wight.
23. Wm. T. Fauntleroy, King and Queen.
24. Wm. A. Spiller, King William.
25. C. Tapscott, Lancaster.
26. Henry F. Hanson, Loudoun.
27. N. A. Crawford, Louisa.
28. Philip M. Tabb, Matthews.
29. John O. Ferrall, Morgan.
30. H. B. Holland, Nansemond.
31. Samuel G. Carpenter, Northampton.
32. Samuel Kerningham, New Kent.
33. Griffin Sampson, Northumberland.
34. John Alcocke, Orange.
35. A. N. Cordoga, Powhatan.
36. Thomas Hopkins, Pendleton.
37. Thos. W. Woodring, Pittsylvania.
38. E. I. Leigh, Prince Edward.
39. Ro. Grattan, Rockingham.
40. Samuel M'D. Moore, Rockbridge.
41. Warner L. Tapscott, Richmond.
42. Elijah Chick, Shenandoah.
43. Bowker Waller, Spottsylvania.
44. Thos. S. Davies, Westmoreland.
45. Reuben Vaughan, Town of Petersburg.
46. Joshua Crump,* City of Richmond.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 20th August, 1821.

SIR: Since I wrote to you, with advice to draw on this Department for compensation for the fourth census, &c. so far as the same has been taken in your district, a mistake has been discovered in the summing up of your account here, of 600 dollars. There was no sum total stated by yourself. The error occurred by adding a figure 6 in the hundreds place, instead of the place of tens, it having been placed directly over the former, thus $\begin{smallmatrix} 69 \\ 114 \end{smallmatrix}$ $\begin{smallmatrix} 68 \\ 78 \end{smallmatrix}$. In remitting you the money,

* This is conjectural. The name of Joshua Crump appears on one of the papers of the return of manufactures for the City of Richmond; but, in the list of assistants' names forwarded by the late marshal, John Bryce is stated as the assistant.

Mr. Maury will make the corresponding reduction in the amount of your draft.

I am, with much respect, sir,
Your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq. *Marshal of the United
States in and for the Eastern District of
Virginia, Dinwiddie Court House.*

A letter, of which the following is a copy, dated the 18th of August, was forwarded, on the 20th of that month, to Mr. Pegram, and to other marshals to whose returns it applied.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 18th August, 1821.

SIR: In your return of the fourth census, I observed "203" placed under the head of "all other persons except Indians not taxed." Will you be so good as to inform me what particular description of persons these are?

I am, with respect, sir,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq. *Marshal of the United
States in and for the Eastern District of
Virginia, Dinwiddie Court House.*

RICHMOND, *August 25, 1821.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, the aggregate return from three counties, to wit: Henrico, Gloucester, and Norfolk, the returns from which were received on yesterday and to-day. But one county, to wit, Elizabeth City, is now to be heard from. I wrote to Gill Armistead, the assistant for that county, in the most pressing manner, requiring his return to be made to me at this place; but have received no answer to my letter, and fear, from what I hear, that he will neglect to make his return in time. His appointment was made by me on the recommendation of highly respectable gentlemen, but I fear he will not do his duty. Should his return come in, I will immediately forward the aggregate. You will observe but one return of manufactures, and that from Norfolk County. The assistant for

that county was the last appointment made. He is a very poor man, with a large family, and has discharged his duty with very great industry, and has made one of the best returns I have seen, requiring scarcely any correction. I should be very glad that he could receive the additional allowance for manufactures, if his return will justify it. Norfolk County being so much intersected with inlets and morasses, impassable at any time, that I believe his labor has been as great as that of [any] other assistant in this state. I will thank you, Sir, to give an acknowledgment of the receipt of the aggregate, and direct to me at Dinwiddie Courthouse.

I am, Sir, with very great respect,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM, *Marshal.*

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 31st August, 1821.

SIR: In the absence of the Secretary of State, I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, with an additional return of the fourth Census, including the counties of Henrico, Norfolk, and Gloucester. The Secretary shall, without delay, be made acquainted with your representations in behalf of your assistant for Norfolk County. In the mean time, it may be well for you to send on your account of compensation for this additional return. It will receive immediate attention.

I embrace this opportunity to express to you what the Secretary of State, before he left Washington, requested me to communicate, namely: that if there should remain to be completed, the enumeration of the inhabitants of any part of your district, after the first of September, the day limited by the act of the 3d of March last for making returns, he wishes that you should continue your exertions for the attainment of the object until within a week of the time for the next meeting of Congress, and then inform him either of your having succeeded or entirely failed.

I am, with much respect, Sir,
Your obedient and very humble servant,

J. B. COLVIN.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq.,

Marshal of the United States in and for the Eastern District of Virginia,
Dinwiddie Court house.

DINWIDDIE, *September 5th, 1821.*

SIR: Enclosed herewith, you will receive the return of the fourth census of the county of Elizabeth City. The return from the assistant of that county, came to hand at a late hour last evening. The reason assigned by Mr. Gill Armistead, the assistant, for failing to comply with the requisition of the law, you will find detailed in his letter of the 29th ultimo, on which day, you will observe in his certificate, of having faithfully discharged his duty as assistant, the oath was administered to him by Mr. Smith, a justice of the peace in Hampton. I have deemed it my duty to make this communication on the subject of his return, and to leave it to your decision. It is, however, my duty to report him as a delinquent, he having failed to comply with the law, authorizing the return to be made from Virginia, by the first of the present month. I fear the aggregate which I now forward, may want something in form, because I have no copy by me at this time; the return being made to the clerk of the Federal Court in Richmond, in conformity to the law authorizing the fourth census. I am, however, confident, if the form is defective, the substance is correct.

Your letters of the 18th and of the 20th ultimo, were received late evening. In your letter of the 18th, I am desired to explain why "203" are placed under the head of "all other persons except Indians not taxed." My reply to this interrogatory, is this: under the laws of Virginia, the County Courts are authorized to exempt certain persons, who, from extreme age, or indigence, are objects of pity, from all taxation. Some of the assistants may have believed it their duty to place them under the head above named; or they may be convicts in the penitentiary, who were taken by my predecessor. I found them on the aggregate partly completed, and did not consider it my duty to alter the returns made. The assistants, as well as myself, being sworn to discharge their respective duties with fidelity, all that I could do, was to examine and correct errors, and not alter the substance of the returns.

On the subject of the letter of the 20th, I can say nothing, except this: I forwarded no account of pay,* because I did not know what, if any, per centage would be allowed for manufactures. I have never received any statement of the account as passed at the office over which you preside; but by your letter of the 27th of July, was authorized to draw on Fontaine Maury, Esquire, for the sum of 13,433 dollars 39 cents; for which sum I have given my receipt, and have received drafts to the amount of 12,833 dollars 39 cents, on the very day I had advertised for the assistants to meet me in Richmond, Virginia, and receive their pay. About half that sum has been disbursed. So soon as they are fully paid, I shall exhibit my accounts for

* Mr. Pegram must here mean that he had made no specification of the sum payable to each assistant, or of the aggregate amount of his account. In his letter of the 11th of June, 1821, he says, "the abstract of compensation to the Marshal and his Assistants is also forwarded;" which abstract was his account, but not summed up.

settlement with the Department of State, having made out the accounts from the duplicate abstract, and from your letter, authorizing additional pay of twenty per cent. for returns of manufactures. I felt no wish to be the disburser of the money to the assistants; but, knowing it had been the custom for the marshals to pay the assistants, I was disposed to do all that my duty required, and expected to be placed on the same footing with the other marshals of the United States. I am fully assured this will be the case. You will confer a favor by forwarding the amount each assistant will be entitled to under my late return from three counties, and for the one now forwarded, should the assistant be entitled to pay.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM,

Marshal of the East. Dist. Virg.

HON. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Secretary of State.

Dinwiddie, September 15th, 1821.

SIR: I have great pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 31st August, and have now forwarded the account of compensation to the Assistants for the counties of Henrico, Gloucester, Norfolk, and Elizabeth City. I have left the account for manufactures in —, not knowing what per centage will be allowed by the Secretary of State; but I request that the allowance of twenty per cent. be made to Seth Maynard, Nathaniel Childers, and Gill Armistead, those assistants having made returns of manufactures. My other accounts are made out in the same manner, and I have already paid more than half the money which has been forwarded to me by Fontaine Maury, Esquire. Presuming there was no mistake in my aggregate return of the fourth census, I have made out the accounts from the duplicate which was returned to the Clerk's office. Will you have the goodness to inform me what allowance (if any) is given to the marshals for disbursing the money to the assistants. My reason for making the inquiry is this: My predecessor had made considerable progress in the census previous to his resignation, and I have no wish to touch one cent of money to which he may, in justice, be entitled. In fact, had he lived, he would have received none, he having agreed to give the amount to Mr. Jos. Allen, of Richmond city, to make out the aggregate and to attend to the business. Upon my qualification, Mr. Allen applied to me upon the subject, and I directed him to proceed to complete the business, and whatever bargain Gen. Moore had made with him would be sanctioned by me. I

have been compelled to take two trips to Norfolk, at an expense of upwards of 100 dollars, in order to make appointments for the counties of Norfolk and Elizabeth City, and met with great difficulty in making the appointments. In fact, I was compelled to make advances of money to induce the acceptance of the office, no person being willing to undertake for the pay allowed by law. On the very day I received the remittance of money, I paid off the accounts of upwards of thirty assistants. The others are paid on application; and as soon as the rest are paid, I will forward the account and receipts.

I feel very much indebted to the Secretary of State for his willingness to allow me a further time to complete the census, and for his polite and prompt attention to my letters to him on the subject; and am much pleased to find Mr. Armistead's return can be received, although, with his return, forwarded, and I presume received, I felt it my duty to return him as a delinquent, as his report was not made in the time prescribed by law.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM,
Marshal of the Eastern District of Va.

J. B. COLVIN, Esq.

October 8th, 1821.

P. S. I will thank Mr. Maury to forward the money for the accounts enclosed, to me, in Richmond, if it can be conveniently sent in the course of the ensuing week; otherwise, to direct to me at Dinwiddie Court House.

J. PEGRAM.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 17th October, 1821.

SIR: Your letter to Mr. Colvin, of this Department, of the 15th ult. from Dinwiddie, with a postscript of the 8th inst. and postmarked Richmond, October 14th, was received yesterday.

The returns of the Census for the counties of Henrico, Norfolk, Gloucester, and Elizabeth City, had been previously received. That which you made on the 5th of September, although after the day limited by law, has been accepted, and will be printed with your other returns; subject, of course, to the opinion of Congress, as to the excess of time.

No allowance whatever has been made to the Marshals, by this Department, for the disbursement of the compensation money to their assistants. The law providing for the fourth Census being silent on that head, the Secretary of State has not considered himself at liberty to interfere. Nor has it been required that the Marshals should render the accounts of the assistants here for examination and approval; it having been taken for granted that justice would be done to the latter by the former, according to the provisions of the act of the 14th of March, 1820.

Your account of compensation for the additional returns has been examined; and is approved for \$602 37, made up of the following items:

| | Census. | Manufactures. | |
|--|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| To Stith Maynard, for Henrico County, - | \$ 149 | \$ 29 80 | \$ 178 80 |
| Nathaniel Childers, for Norfolk County, | 197 47½ | 39 49 | 236 96½ |
| Jesse White, for Gloucester County, - | 124 97½ | | 124 97½ |
| Gill Armistead, for Elizabeth City County, | 51 36 | 10 27 | 61 63 |
| | | | <hr/> \$ 602 37 <hr/> |

By which you will perceive, that I have allowed the 20 per cent. for Manufactures to those persons in whose favor you have requested it. Mr. Maury will forward you the \$602 37 to Richmond, immediately. This sum, when you receive it, added to \$12,833 39, heretofore remitted to you, will make \$13,435 76 paid for this service; which is the whole amount of compensation for the Census and account of Manufactures in the Eastern District of Virginia.

I am, with much respect, Sir, your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq.

*Marshal of the United States in and for the
Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, 9th November, 1821.

SIR: In the "Richmond Enquirer," of the 6th instant, it is asserted, by an anonymous writer, that he had "observed, this Summer, "copies of the late Census posted up at many of the tavern doors;" and that, "in one county, the women of a given age were 537, and "the men of a corresponding age only 45." It is added, that "the "person employed to take the Census was a drunkard and a vagabond, who paid no attention to it."

As no return from either of the Districts of Virginia, exhibits such a disparity in the numbers of the two sexes of the same age, and the allegation, if true, implies an error in one of the official returns to

this Department, I have to request that you will investigate the charge, as well by inquiry of the Editor of the "Richmond Enquirer," with respect to the source whence the information has been derived, as by a recurrence to the original returns of the assistants. It is, more particularly, desirable to know what county is alluded to, and the name of the assistant implicated. Be pleased to communicate to me the result of your investigation as soon as possible, with a view to the most attainable accuracy in the return of the population of the State of Virginia, under the provisions of the act of the 14th of March, 1820.

I am, with much respect, Sir, your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

JOHN PEGRAM, Esq. *Marshal of the United States in and for the Eastern District of Virginia, Dinwiddie Court House.*

DINWIDDIE, November 16, 1821.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt (this day) of your letter of the 9th instant, on the subject of the fourth Census. The remarks of an anonymous writer in the Richmond Enquirer had not escaped my observation; and, previous to the receipt of your letter, I had determined to investigate the charge, in justice to my deceased predecessor in office and to myself. It is well known to you that I have made but two appointments of assistants since I came into office. Their returns will at once give the lie to the assertion of the anonymous writer. My business at Norfolk, and other places, has prevented me from repairing to Richmond to examine the returns again of the other assistants, and the copy of my aggregate return to you, all of which have been returned to the Clerk of the United States' Court, in compliance with the provisions of the law authorizing the fourth Census. I shall, on Tuesday next, repair to Richmond, and will give you the earliest information of the result of my investigation of this business. So far as relates to myself, I have generally paid no attention to anonymous publications; but, as a charge is made against the official agents of the Government, and in which I may in a measure be implicated, I shall certainly sift this business closely; the result of which, I again repeat, shall be made known to you as early as possible.

I am, Sir, with the greatest respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM,

Marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Secretary of State.

RICHMOND, *November, 29, 1821.*

SIR: In consequence of Mr. Jos. Allen's business in the Court of Appeals and General Court, both now in session, I have not been enabled to make an earlier communication to you on the subject of the fourth Census. After a most careful and diligent re-examination of all the Assistants' returns in my district, with the copy of the aggregate returned to you, I find not one single error. Of this fact I was well assured before the present examination. On yesterday I waited on the Editors of the *Enquirer*, with a demand of the author of the publication in question. They expressed some reluctance at giving up the author, and begged of me not to insist on it. I then determined to put the enclosed in the paper of to-morrow. So soon as this was delivered to the editors, the gentleman waited on me, expressed very great regret at his error, and intreated me not to put the piece in the *Enquirer*, assuring me he would make all the reparation in his power through the medium of the *Enquirer* of to-morrow, which I shall enclose to you in the morning. The gentleman is of great respectability, and I wish, unless it be absolutely necessary, that his name should not be known. I have taken the liberty to endorse "private" on the back, although I consider it an official letter, in order to request you to withdraw the piece written by me, as it does not appear in the *Enquirer* at this time, and was written in a hurry and under disagreeable feelings; and, further, requires correction.

I am, Sir, with very great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN PEGRAM,

Marshal of the Eastern District of Virginia.

FRIDAY MORNING.

SIR: I have now enclosed the explanation given by the writer of a piece on the subject of the fourth Census. Some expressions or expression, does not come up entirely to my views, which, however, rests between the author and myself. I only now regret that I consented to withdraw my publication. You will confer an obligation by returning to me the piece written by myself, directed to me at this place. You will discover that I am compelled to send, in two separate pieces, the explanation; an evidence that the editors wish to put out of view any justifiable acts of the Government of the United States, or of its officers.

I am, Sir, yours, most respectfully,

JOHN PEGRAM.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,

Secretary of State.

Copy of a piece intended for insertion in the Enquirer, and withdrawn by Mr. Pegram, referred to in the preceding letter.

November 28th, 1821.

GENTLEMEN: My official duties have prevented me from an earlier notice of a publication in your paper of the sixth instant, on the subject of the fourth Census. An anonymous writer has asserted, that, in one of the counties of this state, the women, of a given age, were 537, and the men, of a corresponding age, only 45. I presume the writer intended to cast a censure on the Assistant, and Marshal who made the appointment; but, as the duty devolved on me to make two appointments of Assistants, after I came into office as Marshal of the Eastern district of Virginia, and the further duty of making the aggregate return to the Secretary of State, I presume I may be implicated in his remarks. He is now requested to come forward, in his proper name, give the name of the Assistant and county, and, through the medium of your paper, substantiate his charge. Had any representation been made to me, showing improper official conduct in any named Assistant, I certainly should have felt it my duty, both as respects my office under the United States and the interests of my native state, to have strictly investigated the conduct of such Assistant. But, as the charge is made through the medium of the press, I wish the subject to be fully before the public.

JOHN PEGRAM,

I wish this inserted in Friday's paper.

Messrs. Ritchie and Gooch, Editors of the Richmond Enquirer.

Copy of a piece which appeared in the Enquirer of the 30th November, 1821, referred to in the letter of Mr. Pegram, of the 29th of November, 1821.

COMMUNICATION.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Understanding that a communication which appeared in your paper some weeks ago, has been used for the purpose of affixing censure on the marshal of this district, the author of the publication takes pleasure in stating that he had no such intention whatever. He believes the marshal to be a most respectable person, every way qualified for his office, and faithful in discharge of his duties. The writer of the piece in question wished only to recommend the register in place of the present method; and the more diligent the officer has been, if inaccuracies still exist in the Census, the better for his purpose.

The author will also state, in justification of the marshal, that he has, since writing the piece in question, seen the aggregate Census

as returned by him; and he finds in it the means of correcting the statement already made. He observes that the number in the column of "free white males between 16 and 18," (which in Fluvanna is 45,) is in fact included in that of "free white males of 16 and under 26," (and amounts to 284,) while the females between 16 and under 26 are 335, an inequality which may well exist.

The writer of this, and of the former article, will remark, that he cited the ages and numbers from memory, having only seen the Census of the county in question, as he stated, posted at the tavern door.

He hopes this communication will be sufficient to rescue the marshal from any censure which may be supposed to be implied in the former communication, which was certainly not intended by the writer; who only wished to recommend another, more accurate, mode of taking the Census; and one which might be of general utility for financial, military, and political purposes.